

1867

1957

# A HISTORY

OF

NINETY YEARS

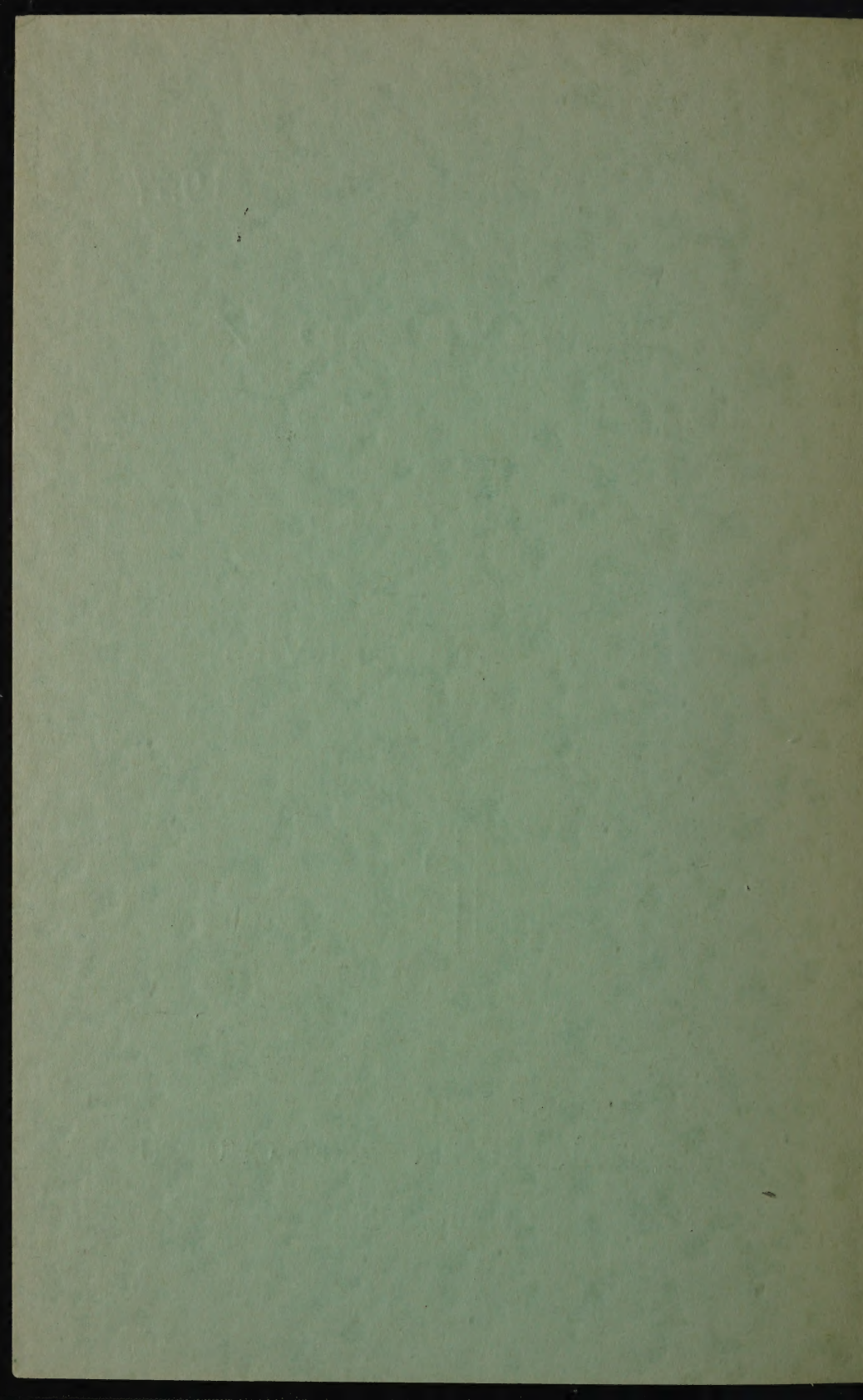
OF

WORSHIP AND SERVICE



ST. JOHN'S  
EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

Millersburg, Ohio

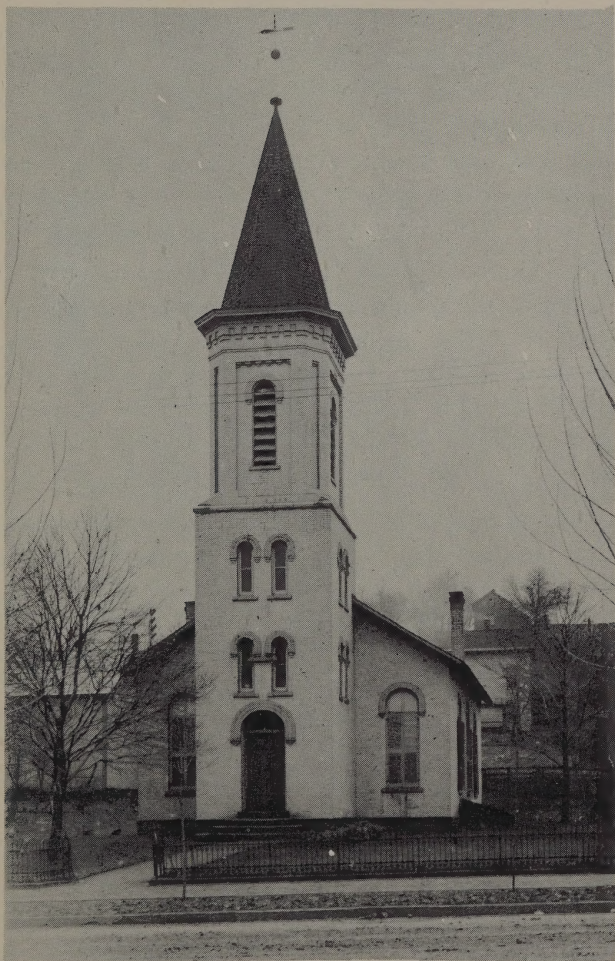




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## PREFACE

*In writing the history of a church, it is almost impossible to present the whole picture of its life in the true light. Also, one cannot go into too much detail, but rather must try only to emphasize those highlights which relate themselves to the history as a whole. Thus, much must be read between the lines.*

*The work of writing the history of our church, as well as of most churches, is rather difficult because of a lack of complete records. For some of the years there is almost a total absence of records. Some of the information is based upon statements made by some of the older members of our church.*

*The members of the Historical Committee who collaborated in the preparation of this booklet were: Mrs. Laura Heinig Close, Mrs. Mary Schuler Black, Mrs. Mellie Schuler Bell, Mrs. Vera Reidenbach Rottman, Mrs. Augusta Heinig (Deceased), Miss Rose Limp (Deceased).*

## DEDICATION

*TO THOSE OF YESTERDAY, our founding fathers, those strong and zealous men who sacrificed and labored to establish our church upon a strong foundation.*

*TO THOSE OF TODAY, who are faithfully endeavoring to maintain and carry on the work of our forefathers, and, with vision and foresight enter into new fields of endeavor.*

*TO THOSE OF TOMORROW, our children and young people who will have to assume the burdens and responsibilities of the future.*

*TO THE TRIUNE GOD, through whose grace, blessings have come down to us unceasingly for ninety years.*

*TO THESE FOUR, we sincerely dedicate these pages commemorating ninety years of our Church's activities.*



## IN APPRECIATION

Four score and ten years ago a new church (a new congregation of saints) was established in Millersburg. Its purpose was to provide a place of worship, and also a place of fellowship and service for the newly arrived immigrants from Europe. Their numbers were not large, nor were they rich by worldly standards. But they had faith in their hearts, and they had a mind to work.

Ninety years have passed. In some ways ninety years is not a long time. There are churches in Europe that are over 1000 years old; and there are a few churches in America that are over 300 years old. But ninety years represents four generations. None of the original members remains. Few of the children of the original members remain. Of the 210 members on our church roll, only one, Miss Louise Schuler, who is 90 years of age, can remember the dedication of our church building, which took place 82 years ago. She was a girl 8 years of age, and her father, Conrad Schuler, was a charter member, and labored in the construction of our church.

Many churches do not go to great lengths in celebrating their 90th anniversary. They wait until they are 100 years of age, and then celebrate their Centennial. We have a special reason for celebrating this year. As most of you know, our congregation is now constructing a new church building. Within a year we will be in our new house of worship. As a result, this is the last anniversary that will be celebrated in our present church. It is only fitting that we make it a noted occasion.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to those who established our congregation and to those who have labored throughout the years. The only way we can repay that debt is by being faithful to the church that has been given us. May our children and our children's children be as proud of us, as we are proud of those who have gone before us.

Charles O. Zechiel, *Pastor*

## HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH MILLERSBURG, OHIO

This brief sketch of the history of St. John's Church is based upon the past record, as recorded in the church books.

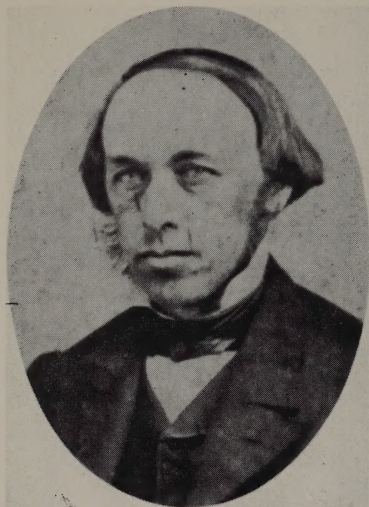
During the years of the fifth and sixth decades of the 1800's many German and Swiss families came to the vicinity of Millersburg to establish their homes. A need was soon felt for a place of worship where the native German language would be used. A group of people gathered together regularly in various homes for scripture reading, prayer, and the singing of hymns; but as the population increased, the people realized the need of a full time minister and a more adequate place of worship. The latter need was met by using the Old Town Hall, located at the corner of North Monroe and East Jackson Streets.

The Rev. John Ackert was called to serve this group of young families. He was the first minister to serve this church, and his ministry lasted for two years (1867-1869). His death in the winter of 1869 brought great sorrow to the newly organized church, and to the wife and four small children left behind.

The new congregation with Rev. Nunemacher (1870 to 1875) met a great need, and with God's blessing, prospered and grew. Before long the members felt the need of a new church building in which to worship. A committee of the Board was appointed to purchase land for the new church. This Committee consisted of John Hamm, Stephen Hecker, David Heilman and Conrad Schuler. It purchased two lots on East Jackson Street from the Leadbetter heirs. Soon work was begun on their new building, which was dedicated in the Fall of 1875. There was great rejoicing when the people gathered for worship in the church that they had erected.

The cost of the lots was \$600. Much of the labor in erecting the new church was donated by the members. No actual cost of the building was found in the records. It is interesting to note some of the families that had a part in the building of the church. They included the Ittner, Sommer, Stuber, Hamm, DeGraff, Schuler, Leidman, Heinig, Stein, Herzer, Hoffman, Leppla, Hollinger, Heilman, Ackert, Rombolt, Knapp, Etter, Schultz, and other families.

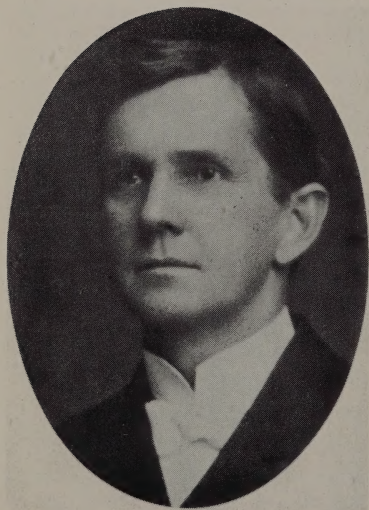




Rev. John Ackert 1867-1869



Louise Hoffman Forsch, Organist, 1875



Rev. A. W. Bachman 1885-1886



Rev. Theo. Gebauer 1890-1894



The church was heated by a wood burning stove; oil lamps were hung from the ceiling to provide the lighting; the people sat on high backed benches; and a high pulpit was built out from the wall.

Three confirmants were received into the church during the fall of 1875 on the day of dedication: Ferdinand Wilhelm Frymann, Gutfried Leppla, Elizabeth Frymann; and others united by Confession of Faith.

Rev. Fogli was the pastor from 1875 to 1876; then Rev. Cunz came and served the church until 1880. In 1876 the church purchased its first organ from an Orrville firm, and Miss Louise Hoffman (Forsch) became the organist, in which capacity she served for many years. The records tell us that the first Men's Chorus was organized about this time; and a German Vacation Bible School was held in the school and conducted by our minister. The German language was used for all services and organizations of the church.

During the pastorate of Rev. Wm. Schaffer from 1880 to 1884 the "Frauen Verein" Women's Society was organized with 40 members. It was the beginning of our outstanding organization under "Women's Guild" -- Rev. Schaffer was the speaker at their 25th Anniversary in 1905.

Rev. A. W. Bachman was pastor 1885 to 1886. A new bell was placed in the church tower in 1885, and the same bell still calls us to worship on Sunday mornings.

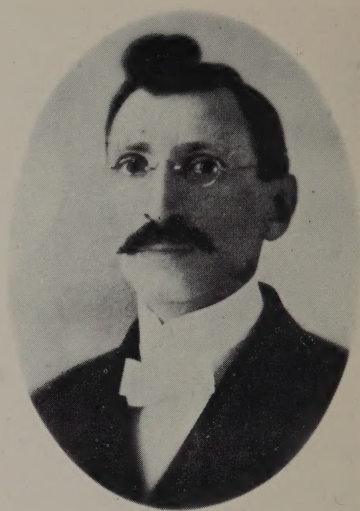
Rev. J. P. Hentz was the pastor from 1886 to 1889.

Rev. Mollick filled the vacancy from 1889 to 1890.

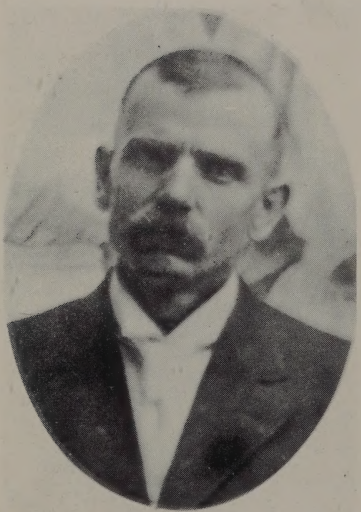
Rev. Theodore Gabauer served the church from 1890 to 1894. During this period the Christian Endeavor Society was organized under the leadership of Miss Ella Schlupe. This Society had a membership of thirty and was very active. Socials in the homes, ice cream festivals, chicken suppers, and the coloring of Easter eggs were a few of their activities. The first Easter Sunrise Service was conducted by the members of this organization.



Rev. Wm. Bourquin 1899-1904



Rev. A. E. Eiermann 1894-1897



Rev. Christain Rufener 1905-1907



Rev. M. Levine Kramer 1909-1912



Rev. F. W. A. Eiermann came in 1894 to 1897. As the years passed by the need was felt for the use of the English language. It was not easy for those who had used the German language since childhood in both home and church to see this change take place. It was first introduced into the Sunday School in 1892; in 1896 English was first used in the Confirmation Class. The records do not show when the English language was first used for worship service, but we do know that in 1917 the English language was introduced in all departments of the Sunday School, and the number of worship services in German was reduced to one per month. Rev. Eiermann also served the Winesburg Church and lived in their parsonage. This was the only period of time that the two churches were served jointly.

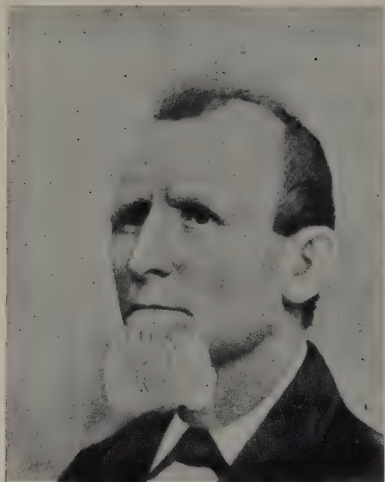
Rev. Mosher was with us from 1897 to 1899.

Rev. Bourquin came in 1899 and was with us until 1904. From time to time it was necessary to redecorate the church, and the women of The Missionary Society and the members of The Christian Endeavor always gave a helping hand. In 1904 and 1905 new pews were placed in the church, and which the congregation is still using. A new furnace was installed, and a bulletin board was purchased. 1905 also marked the beginning of The Millersburg Ministerial Association. It is interesting to note that the church membership reached one hundred at this time. While Rev. Bourquin was serving the church, he married Miss Meta Fehrenbach, a beautiful young lady of the church, and together they labored faithfully here for a number of years.

Rev. Christain Rufener was our pastor from 1905 to 1907.

Rev. Levine M. Kramer served from 1909 to 1912. During this time the congregation united with the Evangelical Synod of North America, and the name of the church was changed to St. John's Evangelical Church. A new constitution was drafted and written in English. Many improvements were made about this time -- eight beautiful art glass windows were given as memorials by families and by organizations of the church; new pulpit furniture was presented to the church by the young people's organization known as Class No. 5; the furniture was made by Louis Schlupe; a new upright piano was purchased to take the place of the organ.

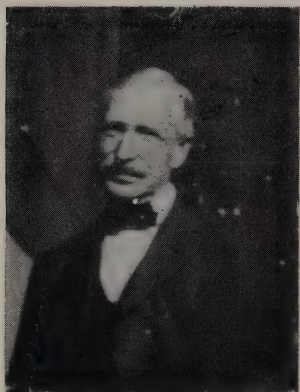
## EARLY FOUNDERS OF THE CHURCH



CONRAD SCHULER



JULIUS HEINIG



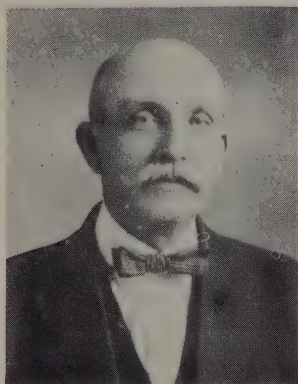
FRED SCHOTT



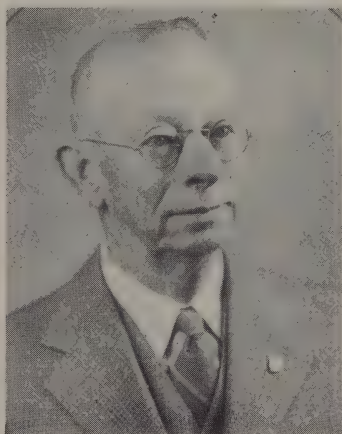
JOHN HAMM



## EARLY FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT COMMITTEE



AARON STUBER



WM. REIDENBACH



CHRIST KLINGLER



HENRY SCHLARB



Rev. H. J. Hahn 1913-1916



Rev. Waldo Bartell 1917-1919



Rev. W. C. Mueller 1919-1922



Rev. Ernest Irion 1923-1926



Up to this time the church had no parsonage, the ministers living in various homes near the church. In 1910 the congregation voted to build a parsonage on the church property. A committee consisting of Fred Schott, Louis Schlupe, Julius Heinig, Adam Etter and Wm. Reidenbach was appointed to see to its construction. The house was constructed of the best material, and consisted of eight rooms, a basement and an attic, at the cost of \$2,238.00. The church continued to grow in membership, and the Sunday School became over-crowded. Thus in 1915 an annex was added to the church. The Annex consisted of a large room that could be divided into separate classes, a kitchen, pantry, and toilet. The present light post was placed in front of the church by Class No. 5. Rev. H. J. Hahn was our pastor 1913-1916.

Various improvements were made through the years. Carpet was replaced in 1918; a Baby Grand piano was purchased in 1920; the cement block garage was erected in 1928; the Church was re-decorated. During these years, Rev. John Keller, Rev. Waldo Bartell, Rev. W. C. Mueller, Ernest Irion, and Rev. H. N. Doerres served the church.

Rev. A. Egli passed away while serving our St. John's Church. Prior to his coming to Millersburg, he filled the vacancy in the St. Paul's Church at Oak Harbor, Ohio during the illness of his son, and also for a short period after his son's death. Rev. Egli came to us Dec. 1929. He enjoyed his work here, took much interest in all departments, gave freely of his time and talent to the local church and various Synodical and Denominational Offices. It was his wish that he might, God willing, be active in kingdom work all of his life. While serving our church he observed his 40th ordination service. He occupied his pulpit until the Sunday prior suffering a stroke and was called home a week later. Many Pastors of our Synod and surrounding territories, garbed in their robes, were present at the services conducted here, and also at St. Paul's, Oak Harbor, where burial took place Oct. 17th, 1934.

In 1934 The Evangelical Synod and The Reformed Church merged to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church. This was one of the greatest events in the history of our church. An equally great event is the merger of The Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches which took place this past June 1957. Our Church will henceforth be known as the "United Church of Christ".



Rev. H. N. Doerres 1927-1929



Rev. Adolph Egli 1929-1934



Rev. H. G. Schairbaum 1935-1941

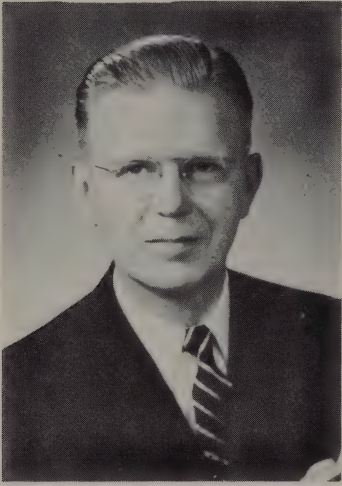


Rev. H. F. Zaugg 1942-1947

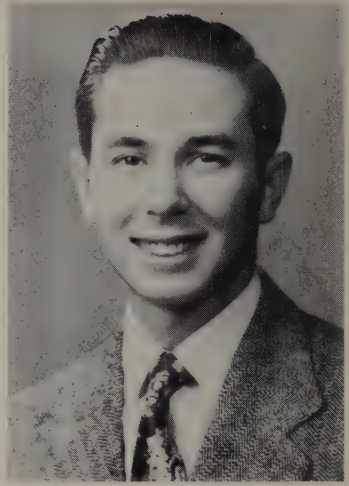


On Oct. 1937, the Seventieth Anniversary of our church was observed. Many former members and Pastors returned to enjoy the fellowship. In memory of this occasion, the beautiful picture "In The Garden" was presented to the church by members and friends. It was at this time that the first choir robes were worn by the choir. They were given to the church by the Schlarb sisters. New seat cushions were presented by Henry Schlarb. The Junior Choir robes were made by members of organizations. The light fixtures were placed in the sanctuary and a new bulletin board was erected. On Christmas Day of 1938, a wedding was performed in our sanctuary, Rev. Harry Schairbaum to Miss Harriet Doerschuk. This was a happy occasion for all -- Rev. Schairbaum was our pastor from 1935 to 1941.

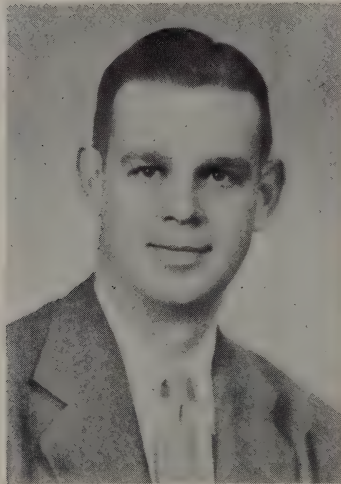
Through these many years St. John's Church had its own pastor. In 1944 the minister of our church was asked to supply St. John's Church at Glenmont. This arrangement continued until 1947, when the Millersburg and Glenmont churches were formally made into a charge. Rev. Fred Zaugg was with us at this time -- 1942 to 1947. For several years plans had been in the making for a divided chancel and a renovated sanctuary, and in 1949 this major improvement was made. The newly renovated sanctuary and a divided chancel were dedicated. The following items were dedicated: A Baldwin Electronic Organ, a gift of the Christopher Klingler family; the altar, altar covers, credence table, and offering plates, in memory of Wm. and Catherine Reidenbach; the pulpit and lecturn hangings, a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Farra, Mr. and Mrs. Kelus Heinbuch, Rose Limp, Clara Geib Schneeberger, and son Tom; altar vases in memory of Godfrey and Emma Ittner; the Cross and candle-sticks in memory of Christopher and Clara Klingler, and sons Donald and Waldo; the baptismal font in memory of Frederick and Mary Gehrig; the communion trays and cover in memory of Henry Karch; the communion plates, a gift of John and Florence Heinbuch; the choir screens, a gift from Mrs. Augusta Heinig; the piano and two clergy stalls, a gift from Henry Schlarb; the lecturn Bible, a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Moyer; the Book of Worship, a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bishop; the choir pews were presented by the combined Classes No. 5 and Comrade; the pulpit, lecturn, chancel screens, dossal box and the dossal, and the panel doors were provided by the Women's Guild, Comrade Class,



Rev. Lynn Tschudy 1948-1951



Rev. J. K. Bontrager 1952-1955



Rev. Chas. O. Zechiel 1956-

Nike Class, Youth Fellowship, and Lola Grassel. The floor of the church was put into order by Dr. and Mrs. Earney. All of these improvements were carried out under the leadership of Dr. Earney, who was president of the consistory. The memorials were given of Love, from devoted members and friends. Rev. Lynn Tschudy was our pastor during the years of 1948 to Oct. 1951. From this date to June 1952, Dr. Firm was our supply.

Rev. John K. Bontrager came to us in June 1952, to 1955. In 1954 the congregation filled out papers of incorporation. They also had the steeple removed for reasons of safety. These were years of increased interest both in the church and Sunday School. The Sunday School rooms could no longer adequately house the pupils, and on many Sundays the sanctuary could not seat the people. Moreover, it was not deemed advisable to add to our present building, and parking had become a problem. Thus, in 1955 a Building Fund was established, with the understanding that a new church would be erected on a new location. A committee consisting of Dr. Earney, Joe Banks, Rueben Kieffaber, and Ralph Achamire was appointed to purchase from Wade F. and Dorothy Lower 5.4 acres of land, one mile west of Millersburg, O., for \$6,000. Dr. Becker, of Wooster, served through the vacancy caused by Rev. Bontrager, to June 1956.

In the fall of 1956 the congregation conducted a Financial Canvass of its members for the purpose of obtaining pledges, payable over a period of three years for its building fund. Clell Maxwell acted as chairman of this canvass, and the results exceeded our fondest expectation. Over \$110,000 was pledged, and at this writing, over \$58,000 of the amount pledged has been paid. Early in 1957 the Congregation voted that a building committee be appointed, whose duty it would be to draw up plans for the new church. The Committee consists of Dr. Adam Earney, Ralph Achamire, Clell Maxwell, Alvin Troyer, Mrs. Albert Gehrig, Mrs. Paul Gindlesberger, and Mrs. Darryl Weiss. The Committee chose as the architect, Thomas Zaugg of Mansfield, Ohio. On May 12th, 1957, the Congregation approved the plans for our new church. On June 23rd, 1957, a Ground Breaking Ceremony was held immediately following our morning worship service. Before another year goes by, we will be worshipping in our new church; and we will feel the same *joy* that our forefathers felt, when in 1875, they first worshipped in our present church.





St. John's Evangelical S.S.

ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION - 1914

Much of our accomplishments were due to the leadership of laymen during the past years. Seventeen presidents of the Church Board were as follows:

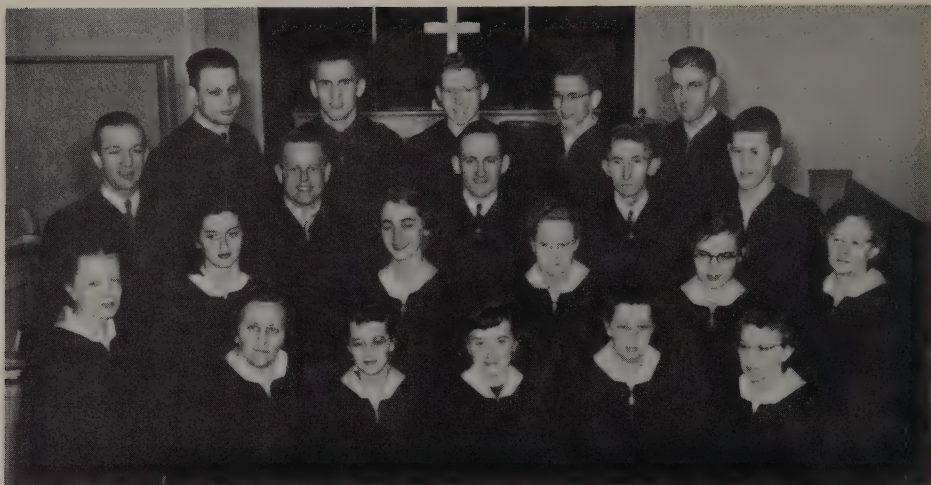
- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Jacob Vorwerk   | 10. Fred Gehrig         |
| 2. David Heilman   | 11. Wm. Reidenbauch     |
| 3. Conrad Schuler  | 12. H. D. Gindlesberger |
| 4. John Hamm       | 13. Dr. Adam Earney     |
| 5. Philip DeGraff  | 14. Rev. Tschudy        |
| 6. Conrad Hoffman  | 15. Laura Close         |
| 7. Fred W. Schott  | 16. Alvin Moyer         |
| 8. Christ Klingler | 17. Dr. Adam Earney     |
| 9. Fred W. Hamm    |                         |

We are *grateful* for the devoted and far-sighted leadership that God has given to our church. We have been blessed in many material ways, but we have also been blessed with spiritual blessings. We have been given a spiritual heritage in the form of the church we love. This is the "*Pearl of Great Price*" that has been handed down to us; and it is up to us to pass it on with undiminished glory to those who come after us.

Unable to obtain pictures of the following former pastors:

REV. JACOB SPOERRI.....1870-1871	REV. J. P. HENTZ.....1886-1889
REV. NUNAMACKER.....1871-1875	REV. P. A. MOLLIK.....1889-1890
REV. FOGLI.....1875-1876	REV. J. P. MOSHER.....1897-1899
REV. CUNZ.....1875-1880	REV. JOHN KELLER.....1916-1917
REV. WM. SCHAFFER.....1880-1884	

## ADULT CHOIR



1st Row: Mrs. Edith Weiss, Mrs. Edna Simon, Mrs. Arlie Rodhe, Mrs. Vera Rottman  
 2nd Row: Mrs. Caroline Briegel, Fern Halfhill Grace Moyer, Mrs. Ada Ling, Roberta Moyer, Rose Limp.  
 3rd Row: Ralph Klingler, Murray Gerber, Darryl Weiss, John Heinbuch, Richard Weiss  
 4th Row: Walter Regula, Jim Weiss, Arlie Rodhe, Clair Weiss, Earl Conner.

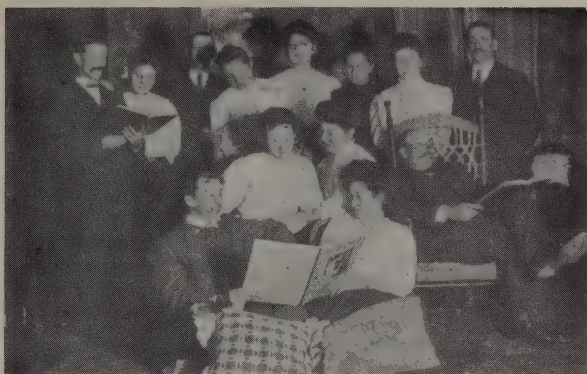
## JUNIOR CHOIR



1st Row: Joe Banks, Wm. Earney, Gloria Bontrager, Darla Losey, Janice Bontrager, Linda Poulson, Marlene Kieffaber, Linda Klingler, Wendy Weiss  
 2nd Row: Linda Losey, John Poulson, Ruby Tish, Darryln Weiss, JoAnn Geib, Michelle Gerber, Edwin Dye, Ruth Tish.  
 3rd Row: Bonnie Fleming, Georgie Mizer, Carol Kieffaber, Charles Regula, Ann Poulson, Karen Regula, Jean Geib, and Mrs. Edna Simon, Director



## A Relaxation Period of the Choir at the Heinig Home — in 1900



Front Row: Harvey Stuber, Rose Limp, Laura Heinig, Emma Limp, Aaron Stuber  
Back Row: Christ Klingler, Viola Dix, Wm. Reidenbach, Clara Klingler, Nina  
Etter, Meta Fehrenbach, Nora Etter, August Gilt.

### CHOIR NOTES

Our Choir dates back to about 1890. The devotion and foresight of the early church members, who gave willingly of their time and talent, made possible the organization of our first mixed chorus. Hattie Etter (Fohl) served as their organist.

In 1897 Laura Heinig (Close) became organist, and served in this position for over forty years. Many Easter and Christmas Cantatas were rendered with a full mixed Chorus.

Mona May Conner (Horner) was pianist for a number of years.

In 1945 The Junior Choir was organized with twenty boys and girls, under the leadership of Laura Close and Edna Simon.

In 1949 our new Baldwin Electronic Organ was dedicated with Mrs. Caroline Briegel at the organ. With the new organ and capable director, new members were added; the joy of these additions created a new interest in the choir at this time. After Mrs. Briegel resigned, Mrs. Edna Simon was at the organ until Mrs. Esther Freed accepted that position. In May 1956, Mrs. Simon again became our organist, and has a very fine choir under her leadership.

We do know, "Music inspires the soul to higher and nobler deeds." For the beauty our Choir has given to the services of worship through the Anthems, Responses, and Communion Music,

The congregation says, "*Thank You*".

## OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Evangelical and Reformed Church has always stressed the religious education of children, young people, and adults. Teaching methods have changed through the years, as illustrated by members telling of days when children were taught to read German by means of the old German Reader. The objective, however, has remained the same, namely, to bring understanding of the Bible and appreciation for the Christian way of life.

There are no records in existence which would tell us when the Sunday School was organized. We do know that John Hamm was the first Superintendent about 1875, in the new church. In 1910 there was a Constitution and By-laws. A complete record of minutes to 1920 are available -- was interesting to note the increase in attendance through the gift of a gold button, with birthstone in a star, for perfect attendance for fifty-three Sundays.

In 1955, Miss Leona Poppe, a director of Christian Education, spent several days with our officers and teachers to rearrange our Departments. We now have the Junior Class, Lower Junior, Primary, Kindergarten, and the Nursery; the Children's Division of which Mrs. Helen Farra is the Leader. These classes meet in the Sunday School Rooms, with 66 enrolled. The Older Adult Class and Adult Class meet in the sanctuary with 65 enrolled; the Young Adults and Sr. High meet in the parsonage, with enrollment of 30; the Jr. High meets in the Choir Robe Room, with 14 enrolled. Total enrollment of 175, with approximate average attendance of 100. The Cradle Roll is in charge of Mrs. Claire Weiss. There are classes for all ages, from Beginners to Men's and Ladies' Bible Classes; Missionary Education and Projects have been emphasized through the years.

The School is now administered by the Board of Christian Education, consisting of five members who are elected by the congregation. The Committee meets monthly to promote the program of the School, and to appoint teachers and officers. Mrs. Evelyn Gehrig is President, Mrs. Laura Close, Secretary, and Donald Bigler, Treasurer. There is also a Workers' Conference

under the supervision of our Superintendent. Many of our young people are sent to the Church Summer Camp at Dunkirk, New York.

An important part of The Religious Education Program of our church has been Confirmation or catechetical instruction. This course of instruction by our pastor, in the fundamentals of the Christian Faith, prepares our young people for church membership.

We are grateful for our heritage as an educational church. We appreciate the devotion and year around loyalty of our Sunday Schol Staff. To *young* and *old*, the Sunday School extends a hearty welcome, and asks your sincere support.

Jim Weiss, S. S. Supt.  
Arlie Rodhe, Ass't Supt.

TEACHERS AND ASSISTANTS

Alvin Moyer  
Calvin Troyer  
Walter Regula  
Marian Zechiel ..... Wilbur Klay  
Ralph Klingler  
Mary Black ..... Ruth Hastings  
Ruth Earney ..... Margaret Dauwalder  
Roberta Klingler ..... Martha Bigler  
Phyliss Snyder ..... Bertha Conner  
Claire Weiss ..... Dorothy Ling





SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERS







Mrs. Augusta Heinig

Officers — Department Chairmen — Standing Committees — of  
THE WOMEN'S GUILD



1st Row (Left to Right): Mrs. Evelyn Rodhe, Miss Rose Limp, Mrs. Victoria Poulson, Mrs. Vestal Bontrager, Mrs. Majora Rodhe, Mrs. Edith Weiss, Mrs. Vera Lepley, Miss Ada Snyder, Mrs. Katherine Klay.

2nd Row: Rev. J. K. Bontrager, Mrs. Vera Rottman, Mrs. Mabel Geib, Mrs. Mellie Bell, Mrs. Mary Black, Mrs. Vera Maxwell, Mrs. Mabel Moyer, Mrs. Evelyn Gehrig, Mrs. Laura Close, Mrs. Ruth Earney.



## THE WOMEN'S GUILD

This Organization, known at first as "DER FRAUEN VER-EIN", started in 1880, under the leadership of Rev. Wm. Schaffer, with an enrollment of forty-one ladies.

The first officers were: Henrietta Fehrenbach, President; Elizabeth Heffelfinger, Vice Pres.; Louisa Shultz, Secretary; Margareta Hamm, Treasurer.

In 1893 we were known as The Ladies Missionary Society, and in 1930 we assumed the name of The Women's Union. We used their Program Booklet before we changed the name.

However, the realm of the present organization extends far beyond the confines of St. John's E. & R., for our local Guild is now but a link in the vast chain of similar groups which exist throughout the length and breadth of the land. Wherever there is a church of our denomination, its Women's Guild has chairmen representing the same departments, using the same programs and monthly topics, all being informed of the needs and goals to be met. Thus, all who avail themselves of this Guild fellowship are in effect joining hands and hearts with the sisterhood of our Church.

As we read the records through the years, and learn of the part "THE WOMEN" have played in the history of St. John's we find their services were indispensable. They worked tirelessly to help defray expenses incurred through property building and repairing, but contributions of moneys, materials and service were ever forthcoming to all calls, both Home and Foreign, supporting various institutions; also various sums donated to the Church Board to help meet expenses.

In the past years we have celebrated the 25th Anniversary in 1905, the 50th in 1930, in 1940 the 60th, and in 1951 the 71st Anniversary -- we had the pleasure of having one charter member with us for the occasion, Mrs. Augusta Heinig, who would soon celebrate her 97th birthday. On Dec. 25th, 1949, The Guild presented Mrs. Heinig with a Life Membership Pin -- this was a very impressive recognition of her Loyalty through the years. We are happy to have five LIFE Memberships among our enrollment.

The second Sunday in November we have our Thankoffering ingathering. This is an especially arranged program with an outstanding speaker -- sometimes a returned missionary. In June, 1957, we had the privilege of having Dr. Florence A. Partridge, Executive Secretary of The Women's Guild, with us. We shall always cherish the memories of her presence.

In 1949 Mrs. Sallie Tschudy introduced the idea of a Cheer Lady Committee, to call on shutins of our membership. These monthly calls with messages of love, and scripture verses, a small gift, have helped many lonely hearts along a brighter pathway. May God always be with them.

*The Women's Guild undergirds the entire program of The Evangelical and Reformed Church.*

We might compare *Our Guild* to a garden; the Gardners of the past years have had a great deal of Love and Patience to create the strong, sturdy stems we have today, whom she hopes will carry on, with the new young stalks, for many more years to come.

#### Our Present Officers:

Mrs. Dorothy Achamire .....	President
Mrs. Edith Weiss .....	Vice President
Mrs. Vera Maxwell .....	Secretary
Mrs. Florence Kieffaber .....	Treasurer

#### Department Chairmen:

Spiritual Life .....	Mrs. Ruth Earney
Missionary Education .....	Mrs. Victoria Poulson
Christian Education .....	Mrs. Evelyn Gehrig
Christian Service .....	Mrs. Martha Bigler
Christian Social Action .....	Mrs. Mabel Moyer
Christian Stewardship .....	Mrs. Claire Weiss

## CHURCHMEN'S BROTHERHOOD

A record of organization of our first Men's Brotherhood was in 1915. There were fifty-one members who signed the Constitution with By-Laws and Rules, composed by Attorney Carl Schuler.

The Officers were: President, Fred Schott; Vice Pres., Fred Hamm; Secretary, Philip Schlarb; and Treasurer, Aaron Stuber.

Four committees were active throughout the years: Spiritual and Church Work, Benevolence, Membership and Entertainment.

The last meeting recorded was February 1919; no later records could be found.

On November 1, 1950, through the efforts of Rev. Lynn F. B. Tschudy and Harold Kropf, Past President of the Southeast Ohio Men's Congress, our Churchmen's Brotherhood was re-organized, with the following officers: President, Earl Conner; Vice Pres., Darryl Weiss; Secretary, Walter Regula; Treasurer, Harry Rottman. Eighteen members were enrolled at this meeting.

Meetings were held in the evening the third Sun. each month.

A Charter Presentation Service was held the evening of January 21, 1951, in the Sanctuary. Dr. Otto R. Gerber, President of the Southeast Ohio Synod, spoke on "Christian Men in Action". The Charter was presented to The Churchmen's Brotherhood by Rev. Kenneth Kohler, Executive Secretary from St. Louis, and Mr. Harold Kropf. The Charter was accepted by Earl Conner, President of the Brotherhood, and Rev. Lynn F. B. Tschudy.

### The Charter Members and Officers:

Ralph Achamire	Ralph Klingler
Virgil Briegel	Clarence Klingler
Cyrus Conrad	Paul Lepley
Adam Earney, M.D.	Clell Maxwell
Howard Farra	Alvin Moyer
Murray J. Gerber	W. Albert Schlegel
Reuben Kieffaber	Lynn F. B. Tschudy

Earl H. Conner .....	President
Darryl D. Weiss .....	Vice Pres.
Walter E. Regula .....	Secretary
Harry C. Rottman .....	Treasurer





Several visiting members of the surrounding area attended this service.

The meetings consisted of a worship service, transaction of business, and a program, usually consisting of visiting speakers from within the town, and also out of the city. Very interesting films were shown at all of the meetings.

Its purpose was to bring together for fellowship and worship, Christian men of our denomination, and invitations were extended to any others who were interested in this Spiritual Get-together. There were refreshments and a social time at the close of each meeting.

The last record of meetings was April 15, 1951.

## OUR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The beginning of our Young People's meetings in the church (from information by word, as no records were found) dates back to 1938. In that year Rev. Harry Schairbaum, with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ittner, organized the Youth Fellowship Group.

This group met periodically for Devotions, Study Period, Fellowship and Socialibility. Money and gifts were sent on various occasions to Ft. Wayne Children's Home; also to local homes that were in need.

Our first Candle Service was inaugurated by this group. Vesper Services were held in early fall meetings. Those enrolled: Marilyn, Judy, Paul Bigler; Evelyn, Aretta Calame; Fern Helfhill; Carol, Betty Ittner; Patty Klingler; Jimmy Lowe; Eileen Lower; Alvin Jr., Roberta Moyer; Helen, Dona, Evelyn Miller; Arlie Rodhe; Phyliss Snyder; Nancy, Alice Sherburn; Bill, Claire, Richard, and Harry Jr. Weiss. This group was very active until 1950, when a younger generation began to function, under the leadership of Rev. Lynn Tschudy, Rev. John Bontrager and Ralph Freed.

On July 1st, 1956, a new Youth Fellowship was organized under the supervision of Rev. and Mrs. Chas. O. Zechiel. The Officers for the year of 1957: Kenneth Klingler, President; Jim Klingler, Vice President; Ann Poulson, Secretary; Karen Regula, Treasurer. Meetings are held the first and third Sundays; in winter, at the parsonage; in summer, at homes and public resorts. The meetings are composed of Devotionals, Business, and Social. The enrollment is small, but we have a fine group of promising future leaders of the church: Arthur Achamire; Harold, Tim Bigler; Bonnie Fleming; Jean, JoAnn Geib; Kenneth, Stanley, Jim Klingler; Carol Kieffaber; Georgia Mizer; Berry Moyer; John, Ann Poulson; Karen Regula; Chas. Regula.

After our meetings of fellowship and worship, we carry a new feeling of understanding for each other, and a closer relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Ann Poulson, Sec'y



PRESENT CHURCH INTERIOR





Rev. and Mrs. Charles O. Zechiel

## CONSISTORY



Back Row: Paul Hastings, Eugene Simon, Calvin Troyer  
 Front Row: Walter Regula, Vera Rottman, Dr. Adam Earney,  
 Vera Lepley, Alvin Moyer

## COMMITTEES FOR THE NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. Laura Heinig Close, General Chairman

### *Historical Committee*

Mrs. Mary Schuler Black  
Mrs. Mellie Schuler Bell  
Mrs. Vera Reidenbach Rottman  
Mrs. Augusta Heinig (deceased)  
Miss Rose Limp (deceased)

### *Programme Committee*

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Regula  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Simon  
Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Weiss  
Mr. and Mrs. John Ling

### *Publicity Committee*

Mrs. Lulu Conner Frazier  
Miss Ada Snyder  
Miss Phyliss Snyder

### *Arrangements Committee*

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gehrig  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hartline  
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Yoder  
Mr. and Mrs. Leland Dye

### *Memorial Plates*

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Rodhe

### *Memorial Stationery*

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Schworm

### *Memorial Booklet*

Mr. and Mrs. Clell Maxwell  
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Klay

## MEMBERSHIP OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Mrs. Pearl Achamire  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Achamire  
 Arthur Achamire  
 Mrs. Walter Archer  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Banks  
 Wilmer Beechy  
 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Bell  
 Mr. & Mrs. George Berner  
 Mr. & Mrs. Christian Bigler  
 Miss Esther Bigler  
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Bigler  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Bigler  
 Harold Bigler  
 Paul Bigler  
 Timothy Bigler  
 William Bigler  
 Miss Marilyn Bigler  
 Mrs. Jessie Bishop  
 Mrs. Mary Black  
 Mrs. Christiana Bretz  
 Earl Brown  
 F. J. Brown  
 Mr. & Mrs. Loil Brown  
 Miss Mable Brumme  
 Mrs. Ethel Burkey  
 Robert Burkey  
 Mrs. Robert Carnahan  
 Mrs. Laura Close  
 Mr. & Mrs. Earl Conner  
 Cyrus Conrad  
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cross  
 Mrs. Olivia Cross  
 Mrs. James Daugherty  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Dauwalder  
 Miss Margaerite Dauwalder  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dauwalder  
 Miss Annabelle Dix  
 Mrs. Rosa Dunlap  
 Mr. & Mrs. Leland Dye

Dr. & Mrs. Adam Earney  
 Mrs. Irma Esely  
 Mrs. Dora Eppley  
 Harold Etling  
 Logan Etling  
 Miss Minnie Etling  
 Miss Minerva Etling  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Etling  
 Mr. & Mrs. Howard Farra  
 Mrs. Mary Farver  
 Miss Bonnie Fleming  
 Mr. & Mrs. Telford Fleming  
 Mrs. Paul Frazier  
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Gehrig  
 Mrs. Mary Gehrig  
 Mrs. Bertha Geib  
 C. Tom Geib  
 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Geib  
 Miss Esther Jean Geib  
 Miss Joan Geib  
 Mr. & Mrs. Murray Gerber  
 Larry Gilt  
 Mrs. Elma Gindlesberger  
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gindlesberger  
 Mrs. Gerald Green  
 Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Guggisberg  
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis Halfhill  
 Miss Fern Halfhill  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hartline  
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hastings  
 Mrs. John Heinbuch  
 Mr. & Mrs. Kelus Heinbuch  
 Mrs. Martha Hoyman  
 Mrs. Mary Kayser  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Kauffman  
 Mr. & Mrs. Glen Kauffman  
 Mr. & Mrs. Reuben Kieffaber  
 Miss Carol Kieffaber  
 Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Klay



Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Klingler	Mrs. Iva Schlegel
James Klingler	Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Schmid
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Klingler	Michael Schmid
Kenneth Klingler	Mrs. Bertha Schmidt
Stanley Klingler	Miss Margery Schmidt
Mr. & Mrs. Simon Krieger	Mrs. Clara Schneeberger
Earl Krieger	Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Schworm
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Lepley	Miss Louise Schuler
Mrs. Hazel Leppla	Mr. & Mrs. James Sherburn
Mrs. Ada Ling	Miss Alice Sherburn
Mr. & Mrs. John Ling	Mr. & Mrs. William Shonk
Mr. & Mrs. James Lowe	Miss Bertha Siegenthaler
Mrs. Verna Lowe	John Siegenthaler
Mrs. Maybelle Lower	Miss Nellie Siegenthaler
Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Madden	Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Siegenthaler
Dale Mast	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Simon
Mrs. Daniel Mast	Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Smith
Mrs. Lloyd Mathie	Miss Betty Snyder
Mr. & Mrs. Clell Maxwell	Mr. & Mrs. Sam Snyder
Mrs. Emma McCauslin	Miss Ada Snyder
Mrs. Lenora McCullough	Miss Phylis Snyder
Mrs. Ronald Milichamp	Mrs. Walter Tipton
Mrs. Eileen Mizer	Calvin Troyer
George Mizer	Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Troyer
Miss Georgia Mizer	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Veigel
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Moyer, Sr.	Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Walters
Barry Moyer	Clair Weiss
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Moyer, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Darryl Weiss
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Patterson	Mr. & Mrs. James Weiss
Mrs. Victoria Poulson	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Weiss, Sr.
Miss Ann Poulson	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Weiss, Jr.
John Poulson	Richard Weiss
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Reed	William Weiss
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Regula	Mrs. Marjorie White
Miss Karen Regula	Melvin Yoder
Charles Regula	Avery Yoder
Mr. & Mrs. Arlie Rodhe	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Yoder
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Rodhe	Mrs. Charles Zechiel
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Rottman	

Listed above is the active membership of our church. Inactive members, visitors and friends are not listed.

